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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/525,081	08/16/2005	Yoshitaka Atarashi	056208.55952US	5107
23911	7590	10/16/2007	EXAMINER	
CROWELL & MORING LLP INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY GROUP P.O. BOX 14300 WASHINGTON, DC 20044-4300			VU, BAI D	
		ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER	
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Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)
	10/525,081	ATARASHI ET AL.
	Examiner	Art Unit
	Bai D. Vu	2165

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 06 August 2007.
 2a) This action is FINAL. 2b) This action is non-final.
 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4) Claim(s) 3,4 and 6-8 is/are pending in the application.
 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
 5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
 6) Claim(s) 3,4 and 6-8 is/are rejected.
 7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
 8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
 10) The drawing(s) filed on 06 August 2007 is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
 Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
 Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 a) All b) Some * c) None of:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)	4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)	Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____
3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)	5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____	6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Response to Amendment

1. Applicant has amended claims 3, 4, 6 and 7, canceled claims 1, 2 and 5, and added new claim 8 in the amendment filed on 08/06/2007.

Claims 3, 4 and 6-8 are pending in this Office Action.

Response to Arguments

2. Applicant's arguments filed on 08/06/2007 with respect to claims 3, 4 and 6-8 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

3. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

4. Claims 6 and 8 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over JP 2002286479 A (hereinafter JP '479) in view of KISAICHI et al. (US Pub No. 2001/0040517 A1).

As per claim 8, JP '479 discloses "an input support method in a communication-type navigation system in which an on-vehicle navigation apparatus and an external server system are connected via a communication network and the on-vehicle apparatus is provided with a cache memory, comprising the following steps:"

"a step of, every time a character is inputted with an input device at the on-vehicle navigation apparatus, searching for candidate characters for next input and the number of candidates pertaining to an input character string in the cache memory," as the storage 1, the name of a place for which the navigation equipment of this invention memorized the map data which the name of a place, the telephone number, and an address were related with the coordinate data, and was stored (paragraph [0009] lines 2-4); and when a user inputs destination information, the navigation equipment of this invention searches the inside of the map data memorized by the storage 1, and searches the coordinate data corresponding to the destination information inputted (paragraph [0016] lines 1-3) wherein the destination information referred as character string inputted; name of a place, the telephone number, and an address (i.e., map data) referred as candidate characters; and the storage referred as cache memory.

"a step of, when there are not the candidate characters and the number of candidates to be searched for in the cache memory, transmitting a request for search of the candidate characters and the number of candidates to the server system by sending the input character string to the server system," as first, if a user operates a control unit 3 and inputs destination information (Step 101), the path guidance processing section 10 will search the destination coordinate data applicable to the destination information

inputted at Step 101 out of the map data memorized by the storage 1 (Step 102). In this step 102, when there is no destination coordinate data, the path guidance processing section 10 controls the communication device 5, and connects it to the external database 6 through the telephone line 7 (Step 103). And the path guidance processing section 10 transmits the above-mentioned destination information to the external database 6 (Step 104) (paragraph [0017] lines 2-8) wherein transmitting the destination information to the external database referred as sending the input character string to the server system.

“a step of searching the candidate characters and the number of candidates pertaining to the input character string in the server system in accordance with the request for search of them, and transmitting the searched results from the server system to the on-vehicle navigation apparatus,” as the central processing unit 18 of the external database 6 searches the destination coordinate data which corresponds in the map data storage section 17 which memorized the newest map data based on the destination information transmitted from navigation equipment 8 in Step 104 (Step 107). And the central processing unit 18 controls the communication device 16, and transmits the destination coordinate data searched with Step 107 to navigation equipment 8 through the telephone line 7 (Step 108) (paragraph [0018]) wherein the destination coordinate data (i.e., destination information) referred as the candidate characters and the number of candidates.

“a step of storing the searched results from the server system into the cache memory to make use of later search,” as using a communication device, from an

external database, the coordinate data corresponding to destination information is downloaded, the downloaded coordinate data is set up as destination data, and it searches for the guidance route from a its present location to the destination (paragraph [0022] lines 4-7) wherein downloading destination information from external database referred as storing search results into the cache memory.

JP '479 does not explicitly disclose inputting destination information as character strings; the downloading coordinate data corresponding to destination information as candidate characters and the number of candidates; and the following steps:

a step of, when a further character is inputted with the input device at the on-vehicle navigation apparatus before receiving the searched results from the server system, temporarily displaying the character string with the inputted further character,

a step of, when the searched results from the server system is belatedly received after temporarily displaying the character string with the inputted further character, correcting the inputted further character in the temporarily displayed character string and displaying the candidate character of the searched results.

However, KISAICHI et al. discloses as the character input device on the present invention comprises a dictionary means storing the correspondence of input character or input character string and candidate character or candidate character string obtained as the result of conversion, an input means for entering characters or character strings including a plurality of keys to which a plurality of characters is distributed, a conversion/next candidate key for directing character conversion and a decision key for deciding the conversion result, an output means for at least displaying and outputting

candidate character or candidate character string obtained as the result of conversion, and a character conversion means for obtaining candidate character or candidate character string, by retrieving the said dictionary means, for the input character or the input character string entered from said input means as the result of conversion and for supplying this candidate character or candidate character string to the said output means. As a result of such composition, when one operates keys to which a plurality of characters is distributed and presses the conversion/next candidate key, for the input character or character string, the dictionary means will be retrieved to obtain the candidate character or candidate character string and this candidate character or candidate character string will be supplied to the output means. Numeric keys to which a plurality of characters is distributed are adopted as the plurality of keys (paragraph [0019]); and in the character input device on the present invention, when candidate character or candidate character string can not be obtained in the processing of the character conversion means, modification will be made on the input character or input character string for revocation in this case. Preferably, the last character of the input character string is deleted for reconvert the input character string. In another approach, a candidate table is provided for keys which might be operated erroneously during the key operation and the input character or input character string may be modified according to this candidate table (paragraph [0025]) wherein the modification of input character or input character string for revocation referred as correcting and displaying the inputted character or character string due to searched results from the server system being belatedly received.

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to apply KISAICHI et al. teaching of entering character or character string and displaying candidate character or candidate character string as search results into JP '479 system in order to allow selection of the intended word or character from among a plurality of candidate words or characters corresponding to the key operation, by touching the portion of a display screen corresponding to the intended word or character and to obtain an appropriate word or character even if the input is not correct (KISAICHI et al., paragraphs [0013] –[0014]).

As per claim 6, JP '479 discloses "the input support method in a communication-type navigation system according to claim 8, wherein the navigation apparatus makes an address search" as the storage 1, the name of a place for which the navigation equipment of this invention memorized the map data which the name of a place, the telephone number, and an address were related with the coordinate data, and was stored (paragraph [0009] lines 2-4).

5. Claim 3 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over JP '479 in view of Oda et al. (US Pat No. 6,856,892 B2).

As per claim 3, JP '479 does not explicitly disclose "the input support method in a communication- type navigation system according to claim 8, comprising a further step of, when a response of candidate characters following the input character string is

not received as a response from the server system in a predetermined period of time, transmitting again a request to search for the candidate characters and the number of candidates based on the input character string". However, Oda et al. discloses as Fig. 5 and the vehicle navigation apparatus 140 always monitors to determine whether the connection acceptance information which should be transmitted is received (step S4). When the connection acceptance information is not received (step S4; NO), the vehicle navigation apparatus 140 regards the radio connection as impossible and returns to the processing of the step S3 to transmit the connection request again (col. 14 lines 58-64).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to apply Oda et al. teaching of monitoring transmission process into JP '479 system in order to allow necessary information being transferred and resumed smoothly.

6. Claims 4 and 7 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over JP '479 in view of Suzuki (US Pub No. 2004/0088110 A1).

As per claim 4, JP '479 does not explicitly disclose "the input support method in a communication- type navigation system according to claim 8, comprising a further step of, when a response of the candidate characters following the input character string and the number of candidates pertaining to the input character string is belatedly received from the server system due to a communication delay, storing data of the belated candidate characters and the number of candidates into the cache memory".

However, Suzuki discloses as a navigation information displaying method is provided, comprising the acts of: receiving difference data to update a database; displaying an item of data for display, and displaying freshness information, based on the difference data and storage contents in pre-update existing database (paragraph [0019] lines 2-7) that by the storing updated information received by a difference data receiver into a local database for any reason including communication delayed referred as receiving data of the belated candidate characters and the number of candidates from server system and storing in cache memory.

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to apply Suzuki teaching of displaying freshness information into JP '479 system in order to enable a user to know whether the data item to be displayed is the latest updated one or has old contents (paragraph [0010] lines 8-10).

As per claim 7, JP '479 does not explicitly disclose "the input support method in a communication- type navigation system according to claim 8, wherein the navigation apparatus makes a POI search". However, Suzuki discloses as FIG. 11 and in the above vehicle navigation apparatus, the data item may comprise POI (Point of Interest) data (paragraph [0018] lines 6-8).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to apply Suzuki teaching of comparing POI different data received from difference transmission into JP '479 system in order to display to user updated information for shops and the like of POI data.

Conclusion

7. The following prior art made of record on form PTO-892 and not relied upon is cited to establish the level of skill in the applicant's art and those arts considered reasonably pertinent to applicant's disclosure. See **MPEP 707.059(c)**.

US-6,310,971 B1

US-2003/0212674 A1

US-7,007,233 B1

8. Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy As per set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the date of this final action.

Contact Information

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Bai D. Vu whose telephone number is 571-270-1751. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon - Fri 7:30 - 5:00 EST.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Jeffrey Gaffin can be reached on 571-272-4146. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

Bai Vu

October 05, 2007

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